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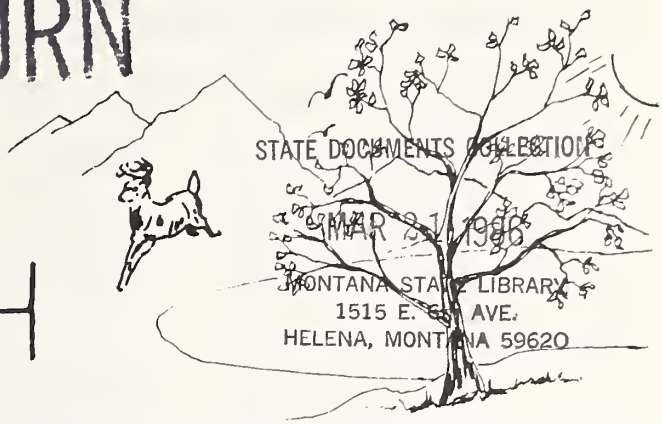
# HEALTH



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VOL. 35, NO. 1 WINTER, 1986 MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

## Economic Problems — Both Federal, State Pose Difficulties in Department 'Figuring'

It's difficult to figure when the beginning and ending figures keep changing while you're figuring!

But, with both the federal and state governments facing economic problems, that's exactly the dilemma being faced on a regular basis by the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences (and, of course, all the other federal and state agencies).

For example, here's a non-detailed overview of the current situation:

• In January, Gov. Ted Schwinden ordered all state agencies to cut their state fiscal year 1986 (which ends June 30) budgets by 2 percent because state revenues were more than $10 million behind what had been projected when the biennium budgets were set. The cuts, of course, were to come from state general fund appropriations.

**For the department, that meant a cut of $72,652 over the remaining months of the fiscal year from its state general funds, which make up only about 20 percent of the department's budget.**

The cuts were made, but not entirely without pain, as $2,500 did come from reduced funding for reimbursement to kidney patients for medical services in the department's end-stage renal disease program. That program receives $125,000 for each fiscal year of the biennium.

However, the department managed to make almost all of its cuts within the areas of savings in contracted services and grants, personnel services through vacancy savings and non-filling of positions, reduced equipment purchases, postponement of repair and maintenance, bulk purchases for supplies and materials, and travel expenditures.

• Naturally, if revenue projections are running more than $10 million behind for the current fiscal year, there also is concern about possible cuts for the same reason in state fiscal year 1987, beginning July 1.

The Governor has said if he is forced to cut state agency budgets by 5 percent or more in that year he would call another special session of the Legislature later this year. Schwinden explained it's too early to combine it with the special session he's calling in late March because he wants to wait a few more months to see where actual state revenue collections stand and how they compare with revenue projections on which the 1985 Legislature set the biennium state budgets. It was the 1985 appropriation act which gives the governor power to cut budgets as much as 15 percent without legislative approval.

• Then there's the federal Gramm-Rudman-Hollings act, which places progressively lower limits on the federal deficit and sets up a formula for making across-the-board spending cuts in increasing amounts until 1991, when the federal budget must be balanced. About 55 percent of the federal budget is not subject to the cuts, but the remaining domestic programs are subject to 4.3 percent decreases and defense to 4.9 percent, if the U.S. Congress and the President do not agree to a budget which accomplishes the act's annual goals.

Gramm-Rudman-Holings was found unconstitutional in its mechanics in a federal court, however that court did not block the implementation of the act pending a decision on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has agreed to rule on it by the end of its current term in July.

There are mandatory reductions of $11.7 billion in federal cuts effective March 1 from this act for the current federal fiscal year. However, the specific cuts are not yet determined at the federal level to be translated to the federal programs in the state. In speculative reports, the amounts of the expected cuts vary widely, but generally human service programs such as Medicare and health programs such as water quality are expected to be among the hardest hit.

The estimated total loss in federal funds for Montana is a "minimum" of more than $33 million from the March cuts and federal fiscal year 1987 (beginning October 1) cuts.

The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings cuts will have a greater impact on the department budget which is principally federal money, than the current and prospective state general fund cuts.

**Although the department will not know for certain how much it will lose until it receives notification in March, Dr. John J. Drynan, says, "Decreasing federal support will create pressure to turn back over to the federal government the programs created with the assistance of federal funds in the last 20 years."**

The deparment director added, "If we have to absorb such tight cuts that we can no longer live up to requirements such as environmental laws, we might have no choice."

Drynan indicated doubts about the nature and size of federal cutbacks creates some morale problems within the department, but poses perhaps greater difficulties for the state' private sector.

"One of the reasons we have taken over federal programs is because industry here wants to work with somebody in the state rather than somebody in Denver or Washington."

# Governor Appoints Helena Dentist to BHES; Others to Various Health-Related Boards

Gov. Ted Schwinden appointed Daniel R. Fiehrer, D.D.S., Helena, to the Montana Board of Health and Environmental Sciences, replacing Richard Swenson, a Helena psychologist, who moved to Idaho Falls, ID.

Fiehrer will serve a term ending in January, 1989.

Fiehrer, who started his current private practice of orthodontics in 1972 in Helena, received his bachelor's degree in 1961 from the University of Dayton in Ohio, and his doctor of dental surgery degree from Ohio State University college of dentistry in 1965.

Before moving to Helena, Fiehrer spent two years as a dentist with the U.S. Public Health Service in Browning.

He helped develop Carroll College's dental hygiene department and was a member of the Carroll faculty for nine years.

* * *

Other appointments by the governor of interest to the state's health care community:

• Jan Anderson, Boulder, and William Thackeray, Havre, to the Board of Nursing. Anderson, a part-time Whitehall Ledger correspondent and superintendent of the Boulder United Methodist Church Sunday school, has served since 1984 as a trustee on the boards of the high school and a grade school district in Jefferson county. Thackeray, an associate professor of arts and languages at Northern Montana College, also is a consultant to Fort Belknap College and owns businesses in Havre and Chinook. He has had several articles published in professional journals, bringing him recognition as one of the nation's leading experts on Native American literature. Anderson and Thackeray fill public member positions on the licensing board which recently were vacated by Patricia Mirehouse, Havre, and Phillip Hess, Missoula.

• Kathy Kleinkopf, Missoula, to the Board of Medical Examiners and reappointed Jeronme Kohn, Billings. Kleinkopf works for a rehabilitation, counseling and vocational planning service. She succeeds Beda Lovitt, Helena, on the board. Kleinkopf and Kohn, an attorney and retired insuranceman, serve as the two public members of the nine-person board.

• Linda Smith, Missoula, and John Johnson, Harlowton, to the Board of Nursing Home Administrators. Smith, a Missoula native, is a staff nurse for Missoula Community Hospital. She received her diploma from St. Patrick Hospital school of nursing in Missoula in 1975. She is a member of Concerned Nurses of Montana, Montana Nurses Association, Missoula city-county board of health and the Missoula city-county air pollution control board. Johnson is the administrator of the Wheatland Memorial Hospital and Nursing Home. He also is a licensed nursing home administrator in South Dakota. Johnson has worked in various capacities for nursing homes and hospitals for the last 20 years. He replaces Warren Croston on the five-member regulatory and licensing board.

• William Bredehoft, Billings, to the Board of Psychologists. A clinical psychologist at the Billings Clinic, Bredehoft received his bachelor's degree in 1971 from Darmouth College, Hanover, NH, a master's in 1974 from Boston College, and his doctorate in 1982 from Boston University. He is chairman of the Yellowstone county licensed psychologists, secretary of the Montana Psychological Associatin and a member of the American Psychological Association. He succeeds Dr. Phillip Russell, Billings, on the five-member licensing and reglatory board.

• Stan Rogers, Billings, and Robert Cotner, D.D.S., Columbia Falls, to the Board of Dentistry. Rogers, a retired executive director of the Indian Health Service with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, currently serves as chairman of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. He is active in the Montana Low Income Energy Assistance Program, the Montana Health Care Association, Low Income Senior Citizen Advocates and Priority for People Task Force. Cotner has practiced general dentistry in Columbia Falls since 1960. From 1956 to 1960, he served as a captain in the U.S. Army Dental Corps. Cotner is involved in the Montana Dental Association, on the Columbia Falls school district No. 6 board and the St. Richard parish board in Columbia Falls. Cotner will succeed Dr. James Olson, Hamilton, who finishes his term on the board at the end of March. Rogers replaces Elmer Cox, Great Falls, as the public member on the board.

• Dr. Donald Bosshardt, Whitefish, to the Board of Radiologic Technologists. Bosshardt practices general medicine with the Family Physicians Clinic. A graduate of the University of California medical school in San Francisco, Bosshardt did his internship and residency in California and has had medical practices in Glendive, Choteau and Great Falls. He replaces Dr. Howard Masurkiewicz, Great Falls, on the licensing and regulatory board.

## ACADEMY HONORS HELENA PHYSICIAN

Dr. Jeffrey H. Strickler, Helena, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, is one of the first recipients of the academy's pediatrics' Review and Education program fellowship award.

Strickler has been active in the continuing education program, completing at least 20 hours per year of coordinated self-directed and self-evaluated study since the program began in 1979. All major topic areas of pediatric health are addressed over a 6-year cycle.

An estimated 60 million Americans have high blood pressure, including 25 million with borderline cases — for all of them risk of heart disease and stroke is increased.


TREASURE STATE HEALTH

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Department of Health and Environmental Sciences
Ted Schwinden, Governor; Dr. John J. Drynan, Director;
Joe A. Renders, Treasure State Health Editor.



**Board of Health and Environmental Sciences**

John F. McGregor, M.D., (Chairman), Great Falls; Tennie Bottomly, Belgrade; Daniel R. Fiehrer, D.D.S., Helena; Howard Toole, Missoula; Kenneth C. Lee, D.V.M., Scobey; William A. Spoja, Jr. Lewistown; Edwin Zaidlicz, Billings.

# Health Facility Authority Sells $67 Million Issue

The Montana Health Facility Authority (MHFA) sold its second tax-exempt pooled loan program bond issue and the $66.9 million issue will provide $53.6 million from which 29 participating health facilities in Montana will draw loans.

The program includes re-funding the outstanding $23.5 million 1984 pooled loan program to provide lower interest rates, enhanced long-term program stability, and a higher degree of flexibility in making loans, as well as providing funds to meet an additional demand for loans documented in a recent MHFA survey.

The structure of the bond issue allows MHFA to re-loan principal payments, providing an ongoing low interest rate loan program for Montana health facilities

The authority chairman, Mary Munger, Helena, commented, "With the closing of this bond issue, we have assured the future of the authority and its ability to exist in the financing of health care facilities."

Administered by the Montana Department of Commerce, the MHFA was created by the 1983 Legislature as a part of the state's economic development package.

The authority estimates when the anticipated loans are originated, the new issue will cut the cost of Montana health care delivery more than $1 million per year for the 30-year term of the program. Initial loans to the health institutions must be made within the 3-year period following issuance of the bonds.

The bonds are limited obligations of MHFA, payable solely from loan repayments by the health institutions pursuant to loan agreements and from funds created by the indenture and investment earning. The bonds do not constitute a debt nor liability of the State of Montana.

Health institutions and amounts of the $34,225,014 involved in the current program:

**Mental Health Center, Billings, $140,000; Northern Rockies Regional Cancer Treatment Center, Billings, $8 million; Cooney Convalescent Home, Helena, $250,000; Northwest Healthcare Corporation and Kalispell Regional Hospital, $6,357,450; West-Mont Home Health Services, Inc., Helena, $494,000; West-Mont Habilitation Services, Inc., Helena, $240,217; Lutheran Home of the Good Shepherd, Havre, $2,333,000; Montana Deaconess Medical Center, Great Falls, $1,750,000; Bozeman Deaconess Foundation, $965,800; Missoula Community Hospital, $5,010,000; Northern Montana Hospital, Havre, $4,561,382; St. Joseph Hospital, Inc., Polson, $500,000; Montana Children's Home and Hospital, Helena, $300,000; Glendive Community Hospital and Nursing Home, $780,000; Mental Health Services, Inc. Helena, $77,165, and St. Peter's Community Hospital, Helena, $2,466,000.**

# 'Clay' Brinck Leaves Record Of Environmental Performance

Claiborne W. Brinck, who retired in 1972 after 33 years with the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, died in Helena early this year.

Brinck, who was 73 at the time of his death, was director of the department's environmental sanitation division for more than 20 years.

Known as "Clay" by his colleagues, Brinck started with the department in 1936 as the assistant sanitary engineer, becoming the assistant director in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army from 1943 to 1946 and then went to work for the U.S. Public Health Service in 1950 studying Missouri Basin industrial waste problems, returning to the department to take directorship of the sanitatin division in 1951.

During Brinck's years as director, the Legislature gave the state control over the water and sewerage of all subdivisions, as well as over garbage dumps. Sewage treatment for every sewered community in the state also was required in addition to a stipulation that only qualified persons operate water and wastewater plants.

**As he was retiring, Brinck said the thing he was most impressed with over the years was the change of attitude Montanans had toward their environment. "Where the department used to have to push environmental sanitation on the public," he explained, "the public now is demanding more and more environmental protection."**

He predicted then that the department's environmental protection activities would increase and the federal government would exercise more control over waste disposal, municipal drinking supplies, pesticide use and food and drugs.

A Butte native, Brinck received his bachelor of science in chemical engineering from Montana State University in Bozeman in 1935 and his master's in sanitary engineering from Harvard University at Cambridge, MA, in 1940.

He received the George Warren Fuller award from the American Water Works Association, the Bedel award from the Water Pollution Control Federation, and was named outstanding engineer of the year by the Helena chapter of the Montana Society of Engineers.

He was a past national director of the Conference of State Sanitary Engineers and the Interstate Conference of Pollution Control Administrators; past chairman of the Missouri Basin Public health Engineers and the Pacific Northwest Pollution Conference; past state president of the American Water Works Association, and a member of the national ad hoc committee to develop an association of water and wastewater plant operators.

In addition, Brinck was active as a member of several state boards and associations, including the certification board for water and wastewater operators, the Montana Water Pollution Advisory Council, Montana Natural Resources Council and the Montana Building Code Council.

As Dr. John S. Anderson, then department director, said on Brinck's retirement, "We will surely miss him. He leaves behind a legacy of strong environmental control programs — a loyal, dedicated staff, and a grateful public."

Brinck is survived by his wife, Doris, Helena, a daughter, three sons and nine grandchildren.

# *Columbus Man, Glasgow Hospital Honored by MEMSA*

Jim Hicks, Columbus, was named emergency medical technician of the year by the Montana Emergency Medical Services Association.

A Columbus High School teacher, Hicks is a member of the Columbus ambulance crew, a cardiopulmonary resuscitation instructor, an ambulance training officer and works with the countywide disaster drills.

Frances Mahon Deaconess Hospital medical services was named the outstanding ambulance service in the state for 1985 by MEMSA from among 30 nominees.

# Healthy Living: Everyone a Winner Theme of World Health Day April 7

With "Healthy Living: Everyone a Winner" as its theme, World Health Day on April 7 will be action-oriented, urging Americans to make a commitment to improved health and well-being for all.

In announcing the annual event, the American Association for World Health explained the "Healthy Living" part is a reminder that responsibility for health ultimately rests with each individual.

Eating nutritious foods, keeping fit through regular exercise, and avoidance of smoking are examples of responsible lifestyle decisions which protect health. And, World Health Day urges all persons to "take charge" of their lives in matters of health.

The "Everyone a Winner" portion of the theme stresses the race against time for "Health for All by the Year 2000" goal of the World Health Organization and the Pan American Health Organization.

Malnutrition, lack of clean water and sanitation, and inadequate or nonexistent health care services are obstacles which must be overcome in the next 14 years if "Health for All" is to be achieved, the announcement emphasized.

It notes Americans can contribute to "Health for All" by practicing healthy life-styles and adds, "Responsible health habits benefit the well-being of the family, community, state, nation and world — as well as the individual — and exemplify responsible citizenship."

The organization stressed a healthy lifestyle also includes health advocacy: supporting or participating in efforts which might spare others from needless death, disease and suffering, and improve health conditions locally and internationally.

Through "Healthy Living" we can help ensure "Health for All" will mean "Everyone a Winner," the announcement concluded.

## FLU SEASON RISKY TIME FOR DIABETES

Each year type I, insulin-dependent diabetes strikes between 7,000 and 8,000 young people throughout the United States, the American Diabetes Association Montana Affiliate warns.

"Most new cases of this life-threatening disease develop in children from 5 to 16 years of age, and occur during the influenza season," Tim Culliton, Montana Affiliate president, said.

According to the American Diabetes Association, an estimated 4,000 or more children and young adults can be expected to develop diabetes this winter.

Insulin-dependent diabetes is the most prevalent chronic childhood disease in the nation, the association notes. Unusual thirst, frequent urination, nausea and rapid weight loss are the major symptons of this form of the disease.

The association urges people exhibiting those symptons to be checked by a qualified physician, and Culliton emphasizes, "If insulin-dependent diabetes is not detected and treated early, it can result in diabetic coma and death."

The lives of thousands of children and young adults who develop diabetes each winter and spring can be saved by alerting the public about the warning signs of diabetes and the need for prompt medical attention when the symptoms occur, Culliton stressed.

The association also warns people who have diabetes are at greater risk of complications resulting from influenza or pneumonia and urges those individuals to be vaccinated against these diseases. Vaccination against both influenza and pneumonia can now be given with one shot.

## Cancer Society Lists 10 Steps To Lower Risk

The American Cancer Society of Montana has announced a public education program, "Taking Control," to promote 10 steps which people can take and lower their risk of cancer.

The campaign is being undertaken to dispel the sense of hopelessness many people have about cancer.

It is the first society program to integrate all aspects of cancer prevention — diet, exercise and general health habits. The program and material offered place special emphasis on workplace seminars, houses of worship and supermarkets.

The 10 steps, consisting of 5 habits to adopt and 5 to curtail, are:

Increase consumption of fresh vegetables; add more dietary fiber; increase intake of vitamin A; add more food rich in vitamin C; practice weight control; reduce the amount of dietary fat; cut down on salt-cured, smoked and nitrite-cured food; stop cigarette smoking; go easy on alcohol, and avoid over-exposure to the sun.

For further information, the Montana division of the American Cancer Society is at 313 N. 32nd St., Suite 1, Billings, MT 59101, or telephone 252-7111.

APRIL 7

## —INDICATORS—

**(Editor's Note: Items in this column are gleaned from a variety of sources and are merely "indicators" of recent medical direction and results. Treasure State Health assumes no responsibility for the scientific accuracy, beyond giving the source of the report.)**

—o—

**Early Shot Helps** — A shot in the arm with a commonly used heart drug, if given by ambulance workers to patients with chest pain, could save thousands of heart attack victims who now die before reaching the hospital, according to a study by two Dutch researchers published in the New England Journal of Medicine. The study of more than 6,000 patients shows for the first time that injecting the drug lidocaine in a shoulder muscle as soon as paramedics arrive dramatically reduces the chance of a victim's heart developing dangerous disturbances in the next hour.

**New Painkiller** — In a development which could lead to a new class of painkillers, scientists have idenified the body chemical which causes acute pain in burns and other injuries and have created substances which might block it, Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, a Johns Hopkins University neuropharmacologist, told the Annual Council for Advancement of Science Writing in Baltimore. Snyder said the chemical which causes the acute pain in injured tissues is called bradykinin and researchers at the University of Colorado have created more than 100 bradykinin antagonists or blockers.

**Vaccine Possibility** — Research on animals suggests it might be possible to use a vaccine to prevent urinary tract infections in women. Until now, attempts to develop a vaccine have been hampered by the need to inject it directly into the bladder, a risky and uncomfortable procedure. But, a new technique, developed by Dr. David Uehling of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, shows an immunity develops when only vaginal tissue is immunized. Urinary tract infections affect 10 to 20 percent of women at least once, and millions of American women every year.

# Emergency Response Graphically Described

**(Editor's Note: The following article originally appeared in the INTERNAL ORGAN, the employees' newsletter in the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, and is being repeated here because of its statewide interest and impact. The story was written by Dick Pedersen of the department's water quality bureau, who coordinates the department's efforts with the state's disaster and emergency services division in the Department of Military Affairs.)**

—o—

The telephone rings late at night while you are sound asleep. You answer it on about the fifth ring, not really knowing what you are doing.

A voice on the other end says, "I just got a call from the Gallatin county disaster and emergency services director and he reports a tank truck carrying gasoline wrecked in the Gallatin Valley and is upside down in the Gallatin River. A highway patrolman is at the scene waiting for a call to advise him what to do. Could you give him a call?"

Some two hours and 10 or more telephone calls later, you're wide awake and believe the situtation is under control — everyone has been notified and you can go back to bed.

Unfortunately, it's a half hour before it's time to get up!

**This scenario is not unusual for 24 department employees who take their turn at being "on call" for any petroleum product or hazardous material spill.**

In addition to myself, there's John Arrigo, John Jarvie, Kevin Keenan, Fred Shewman and Erich Weber to respond for the water quality bureau; Vic Andersen, John Geach, Barbara Jones, Jim Leiter, Paul Lemire, Bill Potts, Mike Rubich, Roger Thorvilson and Sara Weinstock, all from the solid and hazardous waste bureau; Cal Campbell and Sam Murfitt from the food and consumer safety bureau; Drew Dawson from the emergency medical services bureau; Tom Ellerhoff from the environmental sciences division; John Hawthorne and Kevin Kirley from the chemistry laboratory bureau; Bill Hooper from the occupational health bureau; and Warren Norton and Stan Sternberg from the air quality bureau.

In 1985, a total of 79 petroleum product and 21 hazardous material spills were reported to the department through our emergency response system.

Of the 79 petroleum product spills, 42 were greater than 1,000 gallons; 37 were the result of fuel line or pipeline breaks, and 26 were related to truck or train accidents. A total of 432,606 gallons of petroleum product spilled, of which 160,670 gallons were reported to be recovered. Recovery might have exceeded the 160,670 gallons reported because recovered quantities are difficult to determine.

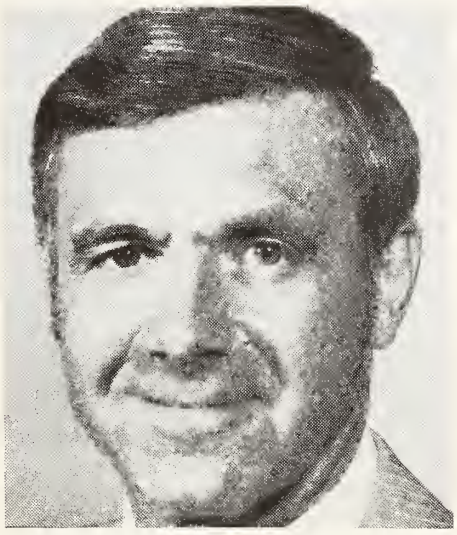
A few of the major spills:

- A 100,000-gallon waste oil spill in Billings, resulting from vandalism.
- A train derailed near Helena spilling 16,000 bushels of ammonia nitrate.
- A truck wrecked near Townsend and spilled 2,000 gallons of sulfuric acid.
- A truck accident near Elliston ended with the spillage of 5,000 gallons of gasoline, which threatened nearby residential wells.
- A pipeline ruptured near McDonald Pass and spilled 45,000 gallons of gasoline into nearby McDonald Creek.
- Another train derailment, this one near Toston, resulted in 7,000 gallons of acetone reaching the Missouri River.

**Thanks to all of the people who are "on call," the public health hazard and environmental danger from these spills was kept to a minimum.**

APRIL 7

# Montana's Health Professionals Meeting in Helena April 8-10



**Dr. William Foege**

Dr. William Foege, president of the American Public Health Association, will be the keynote speaker at this year's joint conference of Montana health associations April 8, 9 and 10 at the Colonial Inn in Helena.

Robert W. Moon, chairman of the conference planning committee and manager of health ecucation programs in the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, said the theme of this year's conference is "Commitment to Health — Prevention, Promotion, Protection."

Sponsoring organizations for the 69th annual meeting are the Montana Public Health Association, Montana Environmental Health Association, Montana School Nurses Association, Montana Association of Home Health Agencies, Montana Case Management Association, Montana Hospice Exchange Group and the Indian Health Service.

In addition to general sessions and business meetings, there will be issue and policy forums in a roundtable discussion format on four major health topics and an extensive number of concurrent workshops each of the conference's three days.

Foege's address will open the second day's general session. He is a special assistant for policy development at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Disease Control at Atlanta, GA. He was director of CDC from 1977-1984.

Also on the conference faculty and scheduled for a major address is Dr. Alan Blum, editor of the New York Journal of medicine and president of Doctors Ought to Care (DOC). Blum will deliver the opening address to the general session on the conference's first day. DOC, founded by Dr. Blum in 1977, is a national organization active in educating the public about the major preventable causes of poor health and high medical costs.

Moon said the conference objectives are to provide an opportunity for information sharing; broaden understanding of the value of the community health team; provide visibility of the health professions; develop local-state partnerships; experience avenues of change by considering a healthy lifestyle; learn state of the art approaches to current and emerging health issues; and discuss key health issues.

## ALVAREZ NAMED MEDICAL CHIEF AT VA HOSPITAL

Dr. F. M. Alvarez, Helena, is the new chief of medicine at the Veterans Administration Medical and Regional Office Center at Fort Harrison, according to an announcement by Frank Caldwell, director.

Alvarez succeeds Dr. William Hertwig, who retired.

Alvarez specialized in internal medicine in private practice in the Capital City from 1972 until he joined the VA in June, 1984.

He completed his internship at the Mercy Medial Center in Chicago and completed his residency in numerous sub-specialties at several eastern and midwestern hospitals.

Alvarez is a member of the Board of Medical Examiners, a senior medical examiner, accident investigator for the Federal Aviation Administration in the northwest region, member of the Helena airport board and active in the Montana Army National Guard.

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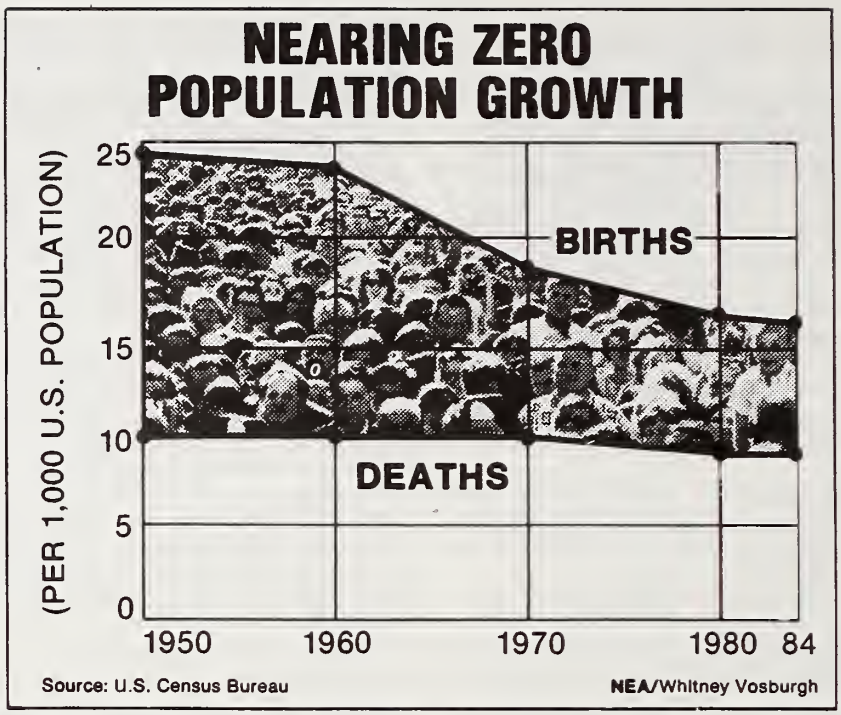
Annually, one million Americans die from heart disease.




**GETTING CLOSER . . . When the number of births equal the number of deaths, a country approaches zero population growth, assuming, of course, that immigration is not a major factor. Although the population of the United States is still increasing, we are getting closer to zero population growth because of a decline in births.**

# Breastfeeding Project Grant Goes to Butte Firm

A Butte company, Renewable Technologies, Inc., has received a grant for a maternal child health improvement project from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The breastfeeding promotion project will be carried out in the company's community nutrition division, according to Louise J. Salo, who directs nutrition programs for the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

The project director is Rita J. Bradley, a registered dietitian, who also serves as contact person. Pamela J. Garcia, R.N., is the breatfeeding subspecialist, and Barbara Hirigoyen is project assistant.

Bradley explained the problem addressed by the project is the need to increase breastfeeding incidence and duration to meet the surgeon general's goals for 1990 and the Butte project will provide a model of regional and/or national significance as an innovative approach to breastfeeding promotion, counseling and support.

The maternal and infant population is served primarily by private sector health care which is compartmentalized into primary, prenatal, in-hospital and postpartum ambulatory care setting, Bradley explained.

"Factors must be altered in each of these settings to remove breastfeeding disincentives.

"Most breastfeeding projects have been in the public health sector and achieve varying degrees of success in promotion. Private sector disincentives and public health program limitations can be overcome by development of breastfeeding counseling and support as a self-sustaining specialty serving the existing private maternal and infant care system," she added.

Garcia's role will be to provide a continuum of consistent support, information and individual care, the project director noted.

She described the project's goals and objectives as being to increase breastfeeding initiation and duration by establishing prenatal, in-hospital and postpartum ambulatory care counseling services; to evaluate the effectiveness of the approach through a comparative study; to improve the local climate of support for breastfeeding; to establish breastfeeding subspecialists as a self-supporting part of maternal/infant care.

The approach is to establish breastfeeding subspecialists as independent health care consultants with the flexibility to provide effective care in different private settings and work with public health programs to reach low-income and working women.

## WILKINSON HEADS DEACONESS HOME

John Wilkinson, a former Lewis and Clark county commissioner, has been named administrator of Inter-Mountain Deaconess Home for Children in Helena, succeeding Tom Drooger, who accepted a position in Massachusetts.

Wilkinson, a caseworker for the Casey Family Program in Helena the last two years, has been involved in many community projects dealing with young people, including consolidation of the Helena area group homes under one board of directors.

He came to Montana as a Vista volunteer, developed volunteer programs around the state, including the Big Brothers and Big Sisters, and served as the Vista project supervisor.

He attended San Jose State in California and received his master's in social work from Denver University.

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## *Measles Still Kill In Parts of World*

Fewer than 3,000 cases of measles were reported in the United States last year, a reduction of 99.9 percent since the introduction of a vccine in 1963. Yet, last year in the undeveloped world more than 1.5 million children died of measles and complications.

This comparison is being used by Dr. Samuel Katz of the Duke University school of medicine in an urgent plea for increased support of the World health Organization's expanded immunization program. He notes the cost of the vaccine, 7 cents a dose, is not a deterrent.

# Department Cites Bahls as 'Employee of Year'

Cited as a fellow "who seems to draw more than his share of tough assignments because people know he has the ability to handle difficult problems and produce quality and timely results," Loren L. Bahls was chosen 1985's John W. Bartlett "Employee of the Year" at the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences.

In presenting the award at an assembly of department personnel, Dr. John J. Drynan, department director, specifically called attention to Bahls's exemplary efforts "to promote and protect the public health and environment of all Montana citizens."

Bahls is an environmental program supervisor and heads the water quality management section in the department's water quality bureau.

He has been with the department since 1977 and prior to that was staff ecologist for the Montana Environmental Quality Council for six years. From 1981-84 he was an adjunct assistant professor of biology at Montana State University.

Bahls is an expert in phycology (the study of algae) and in his spare time is compiling a guide to Montana algae.

He received his bachelor's degree in fisheries and wildlife from the University of Minnesota, St. Paul/Minneapolis, and his doctorate in botany five years later in 1971 from MSU at Bozeman. He has had other academic background at the University of Costa Rica, San Jose; a post-doctoral fellowship at MSU; and the University of Iowa at Milford.

Bahls' professional affiliations include the North American Benthological Society, Montana Academy of Sciences and American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has had numerous writings published in scientific journals and popular articles on algae, water quality and related topics in Montana Magazine, Montana Outdoors, Western Wildlands and Environmental Sciences Magazine.

He also has been a private consultant to the Montana Energy and MHD Research and Development Institute, Butte; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, City of Helena, Union Carbide Corporation, Homestake Mining Company and others, interpreting water quality based on composition and structure of algae associations.

Loren L. Bahls

# Eye Bank 'On-Line' With Computer — Donors Urged

The Montana Eye Bank, at Missoula's St. Patrick Hospital, is "on-line" with a computer linkup to 88 eyebanks elsewhere in the nation, according to a newsstory in the Missoulian by John Stromnes.

Larry Southers, executive director of the nonprofit eye bank, said the computer link will enable the eye bank to determine much more quickly where corneal organs are available to help victims of accidental eye injuries.

Use of the eye bank facility has grown rapidly in the last few years — in 1985, 208 eye donations were collected in Montana, compared with only 96 the previous year.

"Montanans are becoming more and more aware that we have an eye bank in the state," Southers told the Missoulian.

Twelve Montana cities cooperate in the Montana Eye Bank which trains health service workers and morticians in the delicate task of removing eyes from donors and matching those eyes to people who need the transplant operation.

The computer equipment was donated by the Montana Association of Realtors, according to Helen Garrick, a Missoula Realtor and Eye Bank director. Last October, the group raised about $3,600 for the computer, printer and associated software.

It was the association's "Make America Better" project and will be entered in the National Association of Realtors' annual contest for the best public service project among members groups, Garrick said.

C-K Computer Consultants of Missoula supplied the 640K, IBM-compatible computer, modem, printer and terminal, and also agreed to supply computer training.

Southers said the use of the computer could expand in the future to include other organs.

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The Montana Eye Research Foundation is encourging citizens to participate in a program under which organs can be donated at the time of death.

The 1985 Legislature passed a law enabling Montanans to use the back of their driver's license to pledge donation of their eyes or other organs at death. People can participate by filling out a donor card available at the county driver's license bureau and affixing it to the back of the license.

Donor eyes, through the Foundation and the Montana Eye Bank have been used to restore vision to people who live in Montana as well as other states and foreign countries.

The foundation has satellite organizations in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Glendive, Great Falls, Hamilton, Helena, Kalispell, Libby, Livingston and Polson.

Informatin is available from your county driver's license bureau or the Montana Eye Research Foundation, 554 W. Broadway, Missoula, MT 59802.

## *Former President Of Nation's Nurses To Keynote Meeting*

Barbara Nichols, president of the American Nurses's Association from 1978 through 1982, will give the keynote address at the 1986 Montana Nurses' Association convention at the Colonial Inn in Helena on October 1, 2 and 3.

Nichols has a master of science in behavioral disabilities and counseling from the University of Wisconsin in Madison and a bachelor of arts in nursing and psychology.

She was presented a resolution of recognition from the 1983 American Nurses' Association house of delegates for outstanding contribution as national president and for inspiring unity for nurses both nationally and internationally.

# Asbestos — Recently Recognized Health Problem

**Editor's Note: the INTERNAL ORGAN, the employees' newsletter circulated within the Montana Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, is publishing progress reports and summaries of the many programs within the department. The following article is the most recent in the series and was prepared by Larry Lloyd, chief of the department's occupational health bureau.)**

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Asbestos is a generic term which applies to a number of naturally occurring, fibrous mineral silicates. The most widely used asbestos in the United States is chrysotile, which exhibits strong, flexible, noncombustible fibers.

About 70 percent of the asbestos is used in the construction industry with most if it firmly bonded in such products as floor tiles, asbestos cements and roofing felts and shingles.

However, some asbestos used in construction is friable (crumbly). Friable asbestos is used in insulation materials, asbestos cement powders and acoustical products.

Asbestos also is used in nonconstruction products such as textiles, brake linings, clutch facings, paper, paints, plastics, roof coatings, floor tiles and miscellaneous other products.

**The inhalation of asbestos fibers is known to cause asgestosis (a debilitating fibrotic lung disease), mesothelioma and lung cancer.**

While the first record of a case of asbestosis was reported in England in 1906, the realization of the significance of the health risks associated with the inhalation of asbestos fibers did not occur until the late 1940s, following the high asbestos exposures of shipyard workers during World War II.

The first federal law regulating asbestos exposure was enacted by the U.S. Congress in 1972 and is administered by the Federal Occupation Safety and Health Administration for the protection of workers. Congress also enacted several laws affecting the asbestos problem between 1982 and 1985 which are administered by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

In Montana, the department's occupational health bureau has been designated as the state coordinating agency for the EPA's asbestos in schools hazard abatement program. Under the program, the bureau provides coordination between local education agencies and the EPA.

The occupational health bureau has maintained proficiency in airborne asbestos sampling since 1973 by participating in the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health proficiency testing program. In 1981, the bureau developed the ability to identify asbestos in bulk samples by the use of polarized light microscopy.

Bill Hooper, the bureau's industrial hygienist, processes several hundred samples each year for asbestos identification and for the determination of asbestos fiber counts in air.

**Today we are left with a legacy of asbestos health risks which resulted from the unregulated and uncontrolled use and application of asbestos in past years.**

Of particular concern are structures in which friable asbestos materials were applied to ceilings and beams for acoustical purposes and fire protection Also, friable asbestos-containing materials have been used universally to insulate the boilers and pipes of heating systems. Deterioration of this insulation material or disturbance for maintenance or renovation can cause high concentrations of airborne asbestos fibers.

Through the cooperative efforts of the bureaus in the department's environmental sciences division, the department is working to obtain a safe coexistence between humans and the asbestos in our environment.

## NEELY PRESIDENT OF LUNG GROUP

James U. Neely, Billings, formerly with the Yellowstone city-county health department, now is president of the American Lung Association of Montana.

Other officers are James Foley, Helena, president-elect; Dr. Donald Gillespie, Missoula, vice president; Robert D. Saint Louis, Polson, secretary; Joe Bower, Helena, treasurer; Nancy Fuller, Helena, assistant treasurer; Bruce D. Johnson, Kalispell, representative to the national association, and Earl W. Thomas, Helena, executive director.

Nationwide, more than 10 percent of all emergency room visits and 5 percent of all inpatient hospital admissions are because of poisonings.

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